

COMMUNITY NEWS

Work progresses forward toward the total rehab of the Elba levee

The Army Corp of Engineers had engineers in Elba last week working with city officials on the long anticipated upgrade of the Elba levee. They worked with utility companies on relocation of water, gas and electric lines and with City Attorney Jeff Kelley on how they required property access and other documents to be prepared.

The engineers also presented Elba Mayor James Grimes a draft Project Management Plan, abating the many areas of responsibility and assigning the responsibility for that work. The draft outlines the work and gives a target date for reaching each step of the project.

The estimated amount of the total project cost, which will be spent during each applicable year, are also charted. This shows the breakdown of the federal funds and local match portion of the project, which were very badly needed by Mayor Grimes as he works with state officials to assemble the necessary 35% local matching part of the project cost.

The total project cost is \$13,300 and Elba is responsible for finding the 35 percent local match. Up front, Elba must furnish clear title to all the real estate, plus 5 percent cash when the project contract is let. The 5 percent cash figure is \$645,000. This amount must be paid around September, the date Corp officials anticipate letting the construction contract. The additional local match funds will be due in equal payments in each of the next two fiscal years as the construction progresses.

However, before the contracts can be let, Elba officials are responsible for securing title to some property abutting the levee. This additional property will be used for the expanding and strengthening of the existing levee.

Some of the local match funds can be in "in kind" services. And Elba will have several hundred thousand dollars of the levee.

The 3-1 slope will enable better maintenance of the levee by making it easier to keep the slopes mowed and trees from sprouting up through the levee and causing a weakening of the structure. The additional width at the base will also add overall strength to the levee.

The concrete on the outer (or front) of some parts of the existing levee will be maintained as it now is and all work in those areas will be done on the back or inside of the levee.



ENGINEERS FROM THE Corp Of Engineers were in Elba two days last week fine tuning their levee rebuild plans, meeting with representatives of various utilities, including gas, water, electricity, telephone, highway engineers, etc. Attorneys with the Corp also reviewed the property maps and explained federal guidelines for the amount of property needed to complete the levee project. Pictured above are Corp representatives with Elba Mayor James Grimes, standing on the toe of the levee North of the Highway 84 bridge. Behind them is the lone gas line bringing natural gas into Elba. It too must be repositioned in the levee upgrade. Pictured above are from left: Real Estate Attorney Joe Givhan, Mayor Grimes, Project Architect Engineer Mike McKown and Project Manager Charles Owens.



PREPARING TO TEST the trailer mounted auxiliary generator in actual operation of driving the two emergency flood control pumps at the Putnam Street rain water drain outlet. The pumps are designed to pump the water over the levee during times of high water and continuing rain. This generator (on the levee at left) will be used during times when traditional electric power is unavailable to operate the two pumps located to the right, and just outside this photograph.

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CHECKING THE OUTPUT of the recently acquired and repaired surplus auxiliary diesel powered 375 KVA generator are Elba utility department employees Ron Martin (left) and Vic Davis. City crews moved the huge trailer mounted diesel engine and generator in place atop the levee on Monday. This was in preparation for the Tuesday morning official testing of the unit actually running the pumps dumping water over the levee. The generator produces enough power to operate the two flood control pumps located at the levee, off Putnam Street and in what was the old original bed of Beaver Dam Creek, prior to construction of the Elba levee in the late 1930's.

NOTICE

Corrections need to be made on the granite memorial plaques displayed in the county courthouse in Enterprise honoring those citizens from Coffee County who have given their lives in service to their country. Extensive steps have been taken to properly recognize each person and the County Commission has agreed to provide funding for a new, corrected marker. Due to a strong desire to "give honor where honor is due," anyone with any knowledge of additions or corrections to the war memorial plaque now on display is asked to contact Mr. Wilson Mobley, Jr. at 894-5556. Accuracy is the goal so citizens are requested to make this contact with Mr. Mobley no later than February 15, 2001 to insure absolute correct information goes to the engraver.

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Linda Rice To Perform At Elba United Methodist



INSIDE
Bradley Wilson Gets Two Deer On First Day Of Season



INSIDE
McMillans Announce Birth Of Wanya Tazzale



The Elba Clipper

Volume 104, Number 36 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 15, 2001 1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Elba sales tax revenue above projections for first quarter of current fiscal year

On Monday night the Elba City Council meeting went smoothly and reasonably fast. An important reason for that has to be the continuing low monthly bills and the fact that the sales tax revenue for the first three months of the fiscal year is higher than expected.

While the economic news in Elba, Coffee County, State of Alabama and in fact around the nation, is all about slow downs, in the economy, Elba's sales tax revenues for the three month period of October, November and December were \$966,211 higher than expected.

At the same time, monthly expenditures continue to be lower than normal. Every department, except the police department, operated on less than the budgeted amount during the same three month period. Mayor James Grimes said both were good news and he commended city employees for their efforts to keep down expenditures.

The mayor said the local administration is still preparing for a drop in budgeted revenue as the national economic problems increase and filter down to the local economy.

Monthly bills of \$15,172.40 were approved for payment. Grimes noted this was higher than the last two months, but he and the bookkeeper felt that as long as they keep the total bills below \$20,000 things will work out.

The council approved a paying resolution in the amount of \$100,000. This is part of an agreement with the State of Alabama Highway Department.

Elba will use a like amount of money from the local operating budget as match money for the levee repair, and the state will take that same amount of local street paving work.

The council also approved applying for a \$10,000 Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) to be used for planning work at the Elba Industrial Park.

An amendment to the Personnel Policy, relating to Sexual Harassment, was approved after Grimes explained to council members that this was at the recommendation of the Alabama League of Municipalities and had been reviewed by City Attorney Jeff Kelley.

Recreation Director Ricky Mularz asked for and received approval to accept the lowest qualified bid on recreation equipment for the current year. He noted there were 36 items of equipment on the bid list and 55 of the 56 were lower than last year. Mularz added that the city normally buys only about a third of the items on the list and then only as needed.

Mularz reported that last year there were 853 players on 53 teams in the summer recreation program. He added that they were well coached, with local teams placing or winning in area, district and statewide tournaments.

The Recreation Director said they had done an extensive inventory of equipment in their effort to help the city cut expenses.

Assistant Recreation Director Indya Lawless told the council about an upcoming Coffee

County Health Fair to be held at the Elba Recreation Center on March 13th. There will be no cost to Elba citizens who participate in this health fair.

This is part of an ongoing effort to expand the benefits of the recreation department to all citizens, of all ages, in the community. That will include a free Easter Egg hunt for Elba children.

The council voted to readvertise two FEMA buy-out houses in Brookside. The lone bid for each one was \$1,000.

City Clerk Donnie Morrow reported that the new TV sewer inspection system checked out and is doing an excellent job.

He also reported the new boring machine is working fine and so is the new portable generator.

Grimes reported that the roof on the recreation center has held up twice under the test of rain and didn't leak either time. He commended the city employees who participated in the roofing project.



FLYING LOW. The above 1968 Cessna 177 Cardinal was seen traveling through the streets of Elba last Friday afternoon. The plane generally makes its home just outside the Dayton, Ohio area, however, it is currently in Elba for some restoration work. The plane's engine blew during flight, and the pilot had to make a forced landing. While the engine was sent elsewhere for repair, the owner brought the plane to Wing Nuts Aircraft Rebuilders of Elba for restoration work. Wing Nuts has been working to bring the plane back to flying status, along with the assistance of other Elba businesses such as Cowart's Custom Painting and Upholstery and William's Signs. In the above picture, the plane is being transported back to the Wing Nuts facility after being custom painted at Cowart's. William's Signs assisted with the lettering on the side of the plane. Mike Haynes, owner of Wing Nuts, said he is pleased with the work that has been done on the plane. He said once the plane's engine arrives in Elba and the overall job is completed, the plane will be flown back to Ohio.

Commission supplements life insurance

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commissioners meeting in regular session Monday morning addressed several issues and handled routine matters in just under an hour.

The subject drawing the most discussion among the commissioners was a proposal presented by Commissioner Robert Stephens.

He noted that all benefits, such as holidays, vacations and health coverage are equal for county employees with one exception, that being the death benefit.

Stephens pointed out that under the current life insurance policy, all employees' beneficiaries receive \$25,000 in the event of their death except those employees who are 70 years of age and older. Upon an employee reaching his or her 70th birthday, the benefit is reduced to \$5,000.

Commissioner Stephens made a motion that the county guarantee that all beneficiaries receive \$25,000 as a death benefit. This means that in the event of a county employee's death who is over the age of 70, the

county will pay \$20,000 out of the insurance company's \$5,000. Currently, there are four employees who are 70 years old or older working for the county.

The design was asked if the current insurance carrier would increase the death benefit to \$25,000 for those employees over 70 for an increase in their premium. County Administrator Wilson Mobley told commissioners that they would not do so.

After a motion to table the matter for further study failed to pass by a 3-4 vote, Stephens' motion was put to a vote. It passed by a 4-3 vote. Commissioners voting in favor of the action were: Commissioners Stephens, Bernest Brooks, Kayo Lewis and Linda Westbrook. Casting nay votes were: Commissioners Tom Grimsley, Doug Dalrymple, and Jim Thompson.

The legality of this action (paying a death benefit out of the county's general fund) is in question and is being researched by the county's attorney.

Later in the session, Commissioner Grimsley asked that Mobley be allowed to look

into the possibility of finding an insurance company that would offer a death benefit of \$25,000 for those individuals 70 years of age and older. This was agreeable among commission members.

With springtime fast approaching, commissioners saw to it that the grounds of the Elba Courthouse and the Enterprise Annex would be properly groomed.

The contract for the Enterprise Annex was awarded to Blake Invaders of Enterprise, and the responsibility for caring for the Elba Courthouse went to Southern Cross of New Brockton. Their bids were \$4,111.00 and \$3,000.00 respectively.

During the discussion on the bid award, representatives from both firms assured the commissioners that the lawn care would be performed in accordance with the specifications set forth in the invitation to bid. They also told commissioners that they would meet all necessary requirements and guidelines when administering any chemicals during the course of lawn care.

The final phase of the county's federally funded Hazard Mitigation Program was carried out in Monday's meeting. Commissioners awarded the bid for demolition/removal of any remaining structures and the cleaning of the properties acquired by the county during this flood related program. There are six (6) remaining locations in the county to be dealt with.

Low bidder on the project was Donald Hussey & Sons of Elba with a bid of \$7,896.75. The only other bid was from Danny's Dozer Service of Elba. Their bid was \$18,500.00.

After opening both bids, commissioners recessed briefly to review the bids and be certain that all requirements had been addressed in the bids before making the award.

Zack Ennis, jail administrator for Coffee County, gave commissioners an update on the jail's condition. "At the present, everything is going well, maintenance wise," he said. "We're having mostly routine maintenance problems that are being attended to by county maintenance personnel."

He told commissioners that he was averaging housing between 105 and 113 inmates. On Monday, there were 113 prisoners in the county jail - 32 state

inmates, 13 City of Enterprise, 3 City of Elba, 3 Town of New Brockton, 62 county prisoners.

The county engineer's report to the commission was also brief. Randy Tindell told commissioners that Co. Rd. 308 would be closed beginning February 19 due to the start of construction to replace the two bridges. These are the two "famous" bridges that Governor Don Siegelman was pictured with, his hand sticking through one of the timbers supporting the bridges. The construction should take between 4 to 6 months.

County Administrator Mobley presented several items for the consideration of the commissioners during the general business session of the meeting.

He told commissioners that it is time once again to set the tax millage rates for the county for the upcoming year. The commission approved 7 mills for the general fund, 3.5 mills for public roads, bridges and buildings, 5 mills for county-wide schools.

Mobley asked for, and received, permission to establish a petty cash fund for the solid waste office located in the County Complex. He noted that by not having cash on hand, it has posed a problem at times in making change for individuals paying their garbage collection fee with large denomination bills.

At the request of John Brim, who is the county's data processing manager, Mobley asked that a list of various pieces of equipment that are either obsolete or damaged beyond repair be approved for disposal in the county landfill. None of the items are salvageable with the exception of a Sharp copier.

The motion was made by Commissioner Stephens and seconded by Commissioner Brooks that the request be approved with the stipulation that the copier be given to the Ino Senes, owner of Wing Nuts, for their use if feasible. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mobley suggested that commissioners pre-approve the sending out of bids for the repair of the control console damaged by the recent flooding of the jail. He noted that the insurance adjusters from the county's carrier, through the State of Alabama Department Risk Management, are working on

Please See CCC, Page 10

Area Happenings

HOSPICE CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP Community Care Hospice will sponsor the Community Care Hospice Caregivers Support Group beginning Wednesday, Feb. 28. The group will meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. at the Citizens Bank Community Room in Enterprise. The support group is open to all caregivers, not only those of Community Care Hospice.

FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS. Free tax preparation and counseling for seniors age 60 and older and taxpayers with middle and low income is available from AARP Tax-Aide. Volunteers at the Elba site, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will be offering help with personal income tax returns. Returns are electronically filed from the Elba site. Unemployed Dorsey employees can take advantage of this free tax service. Call the Elba Senior Center to make an appointment for either Monday or Thursday, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., each week until April 15. For further information, call toll free 1-888-AARPNOW or visit the AARP website at www.aarp.org/taxaide for further information.

COFFEE COUNTY LAKE is opening for the season Saturday, Feb. 17th. For more information call 897-2131.

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING. The Coffee County Department of Human Resources Foster Parent Association will have its monthly meeting Monday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the DHR conference room in Enterprise. Nevada Ray from the Dale County Association will be the guest speaker. All foster parents and prospective foster parents are invited to attend. Child care will be provided. For further information contact Anita Grimes at 348-2044.

THE HEALTH FAIR proclamation passed by the Elba City Council is displayed by (l to r) Mayor James Grimes, Indya Lawless and Ricky Mularz.

Sen. Richard Shelby to address area residents at county meeting

U. S. Senator Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) will address residents of Coffee and Dale counties at a meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. at the AUSA Breakfast, in the Officers Club, at Fort Rucker.

Sen. Shelby will discuss his legislative activities and agenda for the upcoming 107th Congress. Following his remarks, Sen. Shelby will open the floor to questions and comments from those in attendance.

"I welcome this chance to spend time with area residents," said Sen. Shelby. "Over the years, these meetings have provided an excellent way to meet with constituents from throughout the state. [The meetings] are a great opportunity for an open discussion of the issues which currently face Alabama and the country."

Senator Shelby has conducted a county-wide meeting in each of Alabama's 67 counties at least once a year since being elected to the United States Senate. This year will mark Senator Shelby's 1000th meeting.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

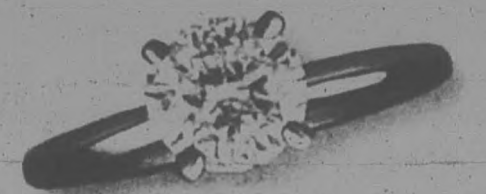
With Ferrin Cox

Senator Richard Shelby has introduced legislation called the "Stealth Tax Prevention Act." The bill is designed to stop the IRS from increasing taxes through adjustable "tax policy" changes. The Senator is concerned that the IRS makes policy adjustments which increase the taxes various groups of individuals are forced to pay. According to Shelby, tax policy should be left where it belongs - to elected members of Congress.

A computer virus posing as a photo of Russian tennis player Anna Kournikova spread aggressively around the world on Monday, as major security companies rushed to update their antivirus software to detect the fast-spreading e-mail virus. It spreads by getting into e-mail address books and sending itself to all addresses in the book. It moves awful fast, having been first detected on Monday morning and spread across the world by mid afternoon. Alaweb is on top of virus problems, as this one tried to get to us through the e-mail of a advertising agency in Birmingham, but Alaweb's virus detection system caught it and protected our equipment by deleting the bug before it could get to Elba.

Late note on the above item. Tuesday afternoon a Dutch hacker admitted to creating and launching the new computer virus. However, in his opinion, it wasn't his fault if it messed up any one's computer... it was their fault. Let that one sink in a bit and then explain to me just why it is my fault if I am hit by a stray bullet fired from your gun?

Elba City Council members were told in passing Monday night about the 853 players in the Elba recreation program. Elba is by any measure a small town and to have that many people involved in organized community sports is great. Yet it is not great enough, and the goal of the recreation staff is to have programs of interest to all local citizens. This is something we have pushed and prodded for over the years but the extra cost was always the excuse. Neither the upcoming Coffee County Health Fair, nor the planned Easter Egg Hunt, are covering the taxpayers anything... except the salaries of the staff already on the payroll. There are many programs which are of little or no cost that can be sponsored by the department and a great big salute goes out to their announced plans to expand into other programs that include more of our citizens. It can work and with community interest, support and participation it will work.



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What is the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

by Riley Boykin Smith

One of the first things we discovered, when appointed Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was the narrow view that the public had concerning the Department. To most folks, The Conservation Department meant "the game wardens" and little else. The Department encompasses so much more than it's really a challenge to coordinate the activities of its five divisions.

For Alabama's citizens to appreciate the task we have in protecting, managing, and enhancing the state's fish and wildlife resources, monitoring the saltwater fisheries, ensuring safety on our waterways, managing public trust lands, and providing safe, get-away locations at the state parks, we need to communicate more with the people throughout the state. That's the purpose of this column. We want to use this means to let you know who we are, what we're doing, and how you can help us better serve your interests. We hope that you will look forward to hearing from us, and that you will feel better informed about DCNR through this regular column.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is made up of five divisions with divergent responsibilities. The largest, and prob-

ably the most well known, is the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, which until recently was known as Game and Fish. The Division has offices and other facilities throughout the state to access and be accessible to all areas of the state. Our wildlife biologists work with local landowners in managing for wildlife and giving expert advice on specific problems. They oversee public wildlife management areas and shooting ranges, and they conduct scientific studies and collect data to determine the overall health of the state's wildlife species and their habitats.

The fisheries biologists offer evaluation and advice for pond owners, maintain state fish hatcheries, and the state-owned public fishing lakes. They conduct studies to monitor water quality and effect on native species.

Enforcement officers support the hunting and fishing regulations, which are most often based on the findings of the biologists. Seasons and limits may vary from year to year, depending on the results of numerous studies. The officers in the field are there to ensure that hunters and anglers are



Comm. Smith

properly licensed, abiding by the regulations, and exercising safety precautions. Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries also has a Wildlife Education Unit that not only administers hunter safety courses, but also educates Alabama's educators through programs and workshops designed to help teachers guide their students in understanding nature and the outdoors. In addition, hundreds of women have attended the Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops offered twice a year through Wildlife Education.

The Marine Resources Division is centralized at the Gulf Coast, keeping watch on the saltwater fisheries resources and enforcing regulations and safety on the coastal waters. Their programs coordinate with other state and federal agencies in covering the offshore waters as well as the coastline.

An ever present force on Alabama's waters from the Tennessee River area to the Gulf Coast, the officers of the Marine Police Division serve the boating public through safety programs, boat operator licensing, boat registration, and enforcement of the rules of the waterways.

The State Lands Division protects, conserves, and man-

ages the state's land-related natural resources to provide maximum benefits to the state. The Division administers the Forever Wild Land Acquisition Program, and also serves as the administration of the State Lands Sales and Leasing Act. The Division also maintains the state's official natural heritage database, identifying and inventorying animal and plant species and areas of biological significance within the state.

Completing the Department's diversity is the State Parks Division with 25 State Parks ranging in size and amenities, from small day-use facilities, campgrounds, cabins, and natural attractions to large resorts with convention facilities and golf courses.

Everything we do points to the same goal - to provide the best opportunities for outdoor enjoyment and experiences to the greatest number of people, in a variety of locations, with the highest concern for both the safety of the people and the wise use of the natural resources. That's a mouthful! And it's also a challenging task.

We're proud of the diversity found in the natural world around us - Alabama is rich in wonders from the caves to the seashore, from the thickly forested areas to the rolling hills. Wherever you go in Alabama, we're there - working to enhance and expand your enjoyment of outdoor activities.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, February 5, 2001, investigated the following incidents: four thefts of property, two assaults, one criminal trespass, two harassments, one unauthorized use of a vehicle, one criminal mischief, two destruction of property, one burglary, and one collision with unattended vehicle.

The following arrests were made: one for assault, two for failure to pay, and one for open container. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: eleven for speeding, four for no insurance, two for driving while driver's license is suspended, one for driver's license not in possession, one for a switched tag, and one for driving while driver's license is revoked.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 201 (4:49 a.m.); River stage - 5:21 (6:27 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on Jackson Street (3:26 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to the county jail in New Brockton (6:52 p.m.); Fire department dispatched to fire alarm at Kleiner's (7:50 p.m.); Alarm at Morrow Village (9:44 p.m.); Alarm at Elba Dairy

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 - River stage - 4:67 (6:29 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 105 (10:05 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a military stage field (11:48 a.m.); Loud and excessive noise at Beaver Trailer Park (8:56 p.m.).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - River stage - 4:39 (6:27 a.m.); Fire department dispatched to a gas leak on Washington Avenue (8:59 a.m.); Minor wreck reported on the square (3:18 p.m.); Fight reported at Beaver Dam Apts. (10:48 p.m.); Fire reported on Harper Drive (10:53 p.m.).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - Disturbance reported at Harper Apts. (5:04 a.m.); River stage - 4:22 feet (6:31 a.m.); Routine activities.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - River stage - 4:09 feet (6:31 a.m.); Possible shots fired at a trailer on Hickman Ave. (9:21 p.m.); Routine activities.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 - Possible prowler reported at Beaver Dam Apts. (12:30 a.m.); River stage - 4:24 feet (6:00 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Stoudermeir St. (5:11 p.m.).

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - River stage - 5:13 (6:21 a.m.); Possible burglary reported on Reynolds St. (8:51 p.m.); Routine activities.

BE CAREFUL!

ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Queen (11:42 p.m.).

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CHURCH NEWS



Linda Rice-harpist

Linda Rice to be in concert at Elba United Methodist Church, Thursday, February 22

Linda Rice will be in concert at Elba United Methodist Church on Thursday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.

Linda is the only female "Gospel" harpist in the world with a full-time touring schedule. She and her French Camac

Shiloh Baptist Church to hold Gospel Singing

Shiloh Baptist Church located off Hwy. 84, near Basin will have a Gospel Singing, Saturday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Elba COC to have Barbecue this Saturday

The Elba Church of God is having a barbecue this Saturday the 17th.

Plates are \$5.00 and lbs. of ribs are \$1.00.

Woodland Grove Baptist Church WMU to sponsor "Have a Heart" Valentine Benefit Barquet

The Woodland Grove Baptist Church WMU will sponsor the "Have a Heart" Valentine Benefit Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the National Security Conference Center, Hwy. 84 in Elba. The dinner will be catered by Kelly's BBQ and musical entertainment will be provided by the Wilkerson Family. The guest speaker will be Bro. Gary Winestead, pastor of Ino Baptist Church. The cost for the

Damascus Baptist Church plans Revival Services for Feb 18 - 23

Damascus Baptist Church will hold a "Return To Me Revival" with Rev. Gary Brown, evangelist, and Casey Speigner, music. The Revival will begin

on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. It will continue Feb. 19-23 at 7 p.m. nightly. Everyone is invited.

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ROUND AND ABOUT WITH ERIIA 897-2006

***Thinking of you, Praying for you, Annie Belcher, Jason Gulley, Collis Belcher, Mason Gulley, Faye Manning, Vick E. Lindsey, Johnnie Yelverton, Rev. E. Magwood, W.H. Caldwell, The Caldwell, Smith, Blue, Terrell and Scott families, Glen Kelley, Bill S. Kelley, Kathy Johnson, Tammy Tillis, Rev. N. L. Robinson

***February Birthday: Mattie Belcher - Feb. 21

***Annual Celebration of Family and Friends Day and Commemoration of "Black History" will be held at LeGrand Community Church in Montgomery on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 12 Noon. Guests will be Elder Majestic McDuffie, pastor, and Elder Bettye J. Belcher, assistant pastor of Hopewell Communityland Presbyterian Church in Leighton, Ala. Please feel free to dress in African attire if you like; however, it is not a requirement.

***Fellowship Banquet of North Highland Baptist Church, Dothan, will be Saturday, Feb. 17, at 6 p.m. Guest speaker will be Rev. C.A. Hammond Jr., pastor of Pleasant Star Baptist Church in Enterprise.

***"Black History Program of Rocky Head MB Church will be Saturday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be Bro. Mike Crittenden. This program is sponsored by the Pastor's Aid Department.

***"Black History Program of the St. Mark Baptist Church in Glenwood will be Sunday, Feb. 18, at 4 p.m. The guest minister will be Rev. C.P. Noble, pastor of the Greater St. Mark in Tuskegee.

***"Black History Program of Mt. Zion First Baptist Church in Brantley will be Saturday, Feb. 17, at 7 p.m.

The group, "Higher Reach" will be the performing. Everyone is invited to attend.

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PASTOR'S CORNER Dr. Tony Dye Westside Baptist Church

A shoulder to cry on

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15)

When a little child gets home later than they're supposed to - well, you know what there's going to be on the other end - there's going to be a worried - and not very happy - parent waiting for them. I heard recently about a little girl who got home unusually late from school only to find a Daddy who wasn't too happy. He asked the little girl why she was late. She said, "Because my friend broke her dolly." Her dad said, "Oh, okay, so you stayed with her to fix it." He didn't expect the little girl's reply: "No, Daddy. I stayed with her to help her cry."

You may know someone right now who needs a friend like that - someone to help them cry. It's part of being a follower of Jesus - actually to be a friend like that. Paul talks about this caring, sensitive, unselfish lifestyle in Romans 12:15. When you are rejoicing, you need someone to share your joy. When you are hurting, you need someone to share your burden. If you are a Jesus follower, that's the way you are supposed to be for those around you. Jesus was that way for people. That's why He attracted so many people to himself.

We don't always do this too well, do we? You probably have a real busy life, a full schedule. I know I do. Someone who needs comfort and encouragement and who needs time from us can feel like a - well, an interruption, an intrusion, or even a nuisance. Feelings like these can give us a hard heart toward those in need. What is really happening is this: God is hearing someone cry, feeling someone's pain, and is sending them to one of His children to show them His love: one of His children like you.

What this means to you and me is that we can't be so rigid about our sacred schedules and plans and "to-do" lists. We need the Spirit-led flexibility to stop for someone who needs a friend to "help them cry." People are more important than tasks.

One reason we don't move in next to someone who's hurting is because we don't know what to say. That really doesn't matter. Your job is to let them talk, let them cry, to listen in a way that you can identify what the person needs right now, and then to see if you or someone you know can help with some of those needs. I've heard of a tribe in Africa where they have a wonderful custom. When someone dies, one of the elders of the village comes to the grieving family's hut and just sits there quietly for a couple of days. He doesn't say anything, he doesn't do anything, unless he is asked to. He just sits there. His presence alone is comfort. That's not a bad model.

Strangely, what often qualifies you to be a comforter involves some of the hardest things you've ever faced in your life. You've been the one who cried, you can help someone else who is. Paul wrote it this way, "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:4). Be like your Savior, be there to help them cry.

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Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hasty

Hobbs- Hasty wedding held in Jasper, Georgia

Valerie Hobbs and Bob Hasty were united in marriage on Friday evening, Nov. 3, 2000 at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Jasper, Ga. Rev. Leo B. Lydon of Clarkburg-W.V., friend of the bride, performed the double-ring candlelight ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Gene and Sharon Emig of Bent Tree, Jasper, Ga. and Margaret Murphy of Florence, S.C. The bride's mother, Sharon Emig, wore a tea-length, emerald green brocade dress and the groom's mother, Margaret Hasty, was attired in an aqua, chiffon tea-length dress.

Friend of the groom, Mark Murphy of Florence, S.C. served as best man. Ted Graham and Walter Miles of Birmingham, Ala. served as groomsmen.

Following the wedding ceremony a reception was held at the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce in Jasper.

The newlyweds honeymooned on a cruise to the western Caribbean. They are now residing in Laurel Lake, Ball Ground, Ga.

Wedding music was provided by soloist Selma Fields and soloist/organist Darrek Cornelison; both of Jasper, A. special tribute, "A Mother's Song" was sung by Darrek as the mothers were ushered in. A duet, "From This Moment On," was sung at the lighting of the Unity Candle.

In addition to the bride's sister, Tyler Hobbs, son of the bride, escorted his mother to the altar. The bride wore a tiered ivory tea-length dress with complimentary ivory flowers, intertwined in her hair and carried a bouquet of fall colored flowers designed by her sister and matron of honor, Shayna Goulding-Davis of Macon.

The bride's mother, Sharon Emig, wore a tea-length, emerald green brocade dress and the groom's mother, Margaret Hasty, was attired in an aqua, chiffon tea-length dress.

Friend of the groom, Mark Murphy of Florence, S.C. served as best man. Ted Graham and Walter Miles of Birmingham, Ala. served as groomsmen.

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SCHOOLS

Co-Op Spotlight



by Tabitha Schultz
This week's co-op spotlight focuses on Onida Davis. "Nada" is a 17-year-old employee of Ryan's Steakhouse where she is a cashier and server. She says that she has learned most from her job. "Working well with people is easy if you keep a positive attitude."

Nada is the daughter of Carolyn Sillar and Gary Davis. She is a member of St. Barbara's Church, and Holy Trinity Church of Christ.

After graduation, Nada plans on going into the Air Force.

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Tiger Tales

Editors:
Bethany Dye
Amanda Beerenstrauch

Student Spotlight

by Francie English
Name: Brittany Hudson
Parents: Tabitha Hudson
Age: 12
Grade: 7th

Favorite Color: Neon Pink
Favorite Music: Alternative
Club Activities: Jr. Beta and Volleyball
Interests/Hobbies: Volleyball and Dancing

Personal Quote: "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Brittany Hudson was chosen to be this week's Student Spotlight.

Brittany's favorite class is her science class because she loves doing the experiments.

Being able to decide on various things such as what classes to take is what she enjoys most about Elba High School. The one event that sticks out most in Brittany's mind is when she had to dissect a frog in Coach



Brittany Hudson

Week's class. The one class that Brittany would like to be able to take but is unavailable at EHS is French.

After graduation, Brittany's goal is to go to college and earn a high degree.

Elbala Pageant Sea of Enchantment

by Leanne Mallory

On Saturday, Jan. 27, the EHS Journalism Staff sponsored the annual Miss Elbala Pageant. There were four age divisions: Miss, Little Miss, Junior Miss, and Miss. There were 42 contestants in all that participated in the pageant. The practices began on Tuesday, Jan. 23, and Thursday, Jan. 25. The pageant began at 6 p.m. on Saturday night.

The Miss category consisted of ten girls in Kindergarten-3rd grade. The winners were:
Second Runner-up: a tie between Keri Jones and Kendra Siler
First Runner-up: Aaliyah Horstead
Winner: Lindsay McClung
The Little Miss category consisted of four girls in grades 4-6. The winners were:

County's youth leaders get locked up

by Chelsea Cooper

On Wednesday, Jan. 24, the Coffee County Youth Leadership Program met for their program focused on the legal system.

The morning started off as we loaded the buses and took a trip down to the Coffee County Jail. As we got off the buses, we were welcomed by Sheriff Ben Moates. He gave us a brief overview of what happens in the everyday life of a prisoner. We were allowed into the jail and anxiously watched as the doors closed and locked behind us. We saw where the clothes were washed, looked in the kitchen, and then visited both the male and female cellblocks. I even had my rights read to me and my trial date set by a man at the courthouse over the computer. We politely thanked Sheriff Moates for his time, and I hope we didn't look too ready to leave as we pushed out the door.

We then traveled to the courthouse where Judge Gary McAllister explained how the court system works. He then led us on a tour of the judge's chamber and the juvenile court room.

After we left the courthouse, we ate lunch at the Enterprise Lion's Club and listened to one of our participants speak about the program. After lunch, we got back on the buses and went to the extension office to fill out our evaluation forms.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the

Coffee County Youth Leadership Council met again at 7:30 to begin our day on health care.

Judy Crawley was our leader for the day, and she gave us a brief outline of what the day would entail.

As we left the hospital in Enterprise where we were given a tour of the labor yard, radiology, the ER, and physical therapy.

When we returned to the Extension Office, Mr. Gary

Brown from Georgia had arrived to speak to us. He lectured us about STD's and the risk involved with premarital sex. He taught us many activities to take back to our respective schools showing how easy it was to get an STD. We then ate lunch and discussed what we wanted for graduation to look like. Mr. Brown resumed his program after lunch, and we wrapped things up at 2:00.

It was an eventful and interesting day.

White House Response

by Amanda Beerenstrauch

Not long ago 7th grader Richard Barlow wrote a letter to President Bill Clinton voicing his concerns about the loss of jobs in Southeast Alabama, and Elba in particular. Richard decided to write the letter after the recent closing of Dorsey Trailers. Following is the response he received from The White House:

Dear Richard:
On behalf of President Clinton, thank you for writing. The President always enjoys hearing from young people.

As you may know, there are divisions of authority among the federal, state, and local governments. Many important decisions are left up to the states to decide for their residents, and states have their own legislatures and courts.

The issue you raised is one that the federal government does not have authority to address. I suggest that your family contact your state or local government officials to



Richard Barlow

find out if they can help you. Contacting your state and local representatives can also be a good way to get involved in your community.

Again, thank you for writing to the President with your concerns.

Sincerely,
Delia A. Cohen, Special Assistant to the President - Director of Correspondence and Presidential Messages

Groundhog Day Shadowing Program



Elba High School student Renee Wambles shadowed obstetrics at Mizell Memorial Hospital through The Groundhog Day Shadowing Program sponsored by MacArthur's Tech Prep Program. L-R Debbie Franklin, Director of Nursing; Kristi Johnson, LPN; and Renee Wambles. Foreground: newborn girl.

It's Electric

by Amy Kirkland

Juniors at EHS have recently been busy writing research papers for the annual Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC) contest. All students in 11th grade Advanced English were required to write a paper on a given topic: "Rural Electric Cooperatives: Past, Present, and Future." Papers were graded for content and then were judged by teachers to decide which ones should be sent to AEC for final competitions.

Stephanie Sasser, Michelle Adkins, Katie Crowe, Katie Grimes, Hunter Branch, Shay Johnson, Casey Skinner, Chelsea Cooper, Evan Maddox and Wesley Kelley wrote the top ten papers.

One winner from our school will receive a one-week trip to Washington D.C., provided by AEC.

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SCHOOLS

Youth Leadership Program



Kassey Rhodes is a member of and participant in the Coffee County Youth Leadership Program. The program mission is to prepare high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential to take active leadership roles in improving their homes, schools, and communities.

Juniors and sophomores from all public, private, and home schools who are at least 15 years of age could apply for the program. Priority was given to high school juniors, although applications were considered on a space available basis. Applicants had to have a C or better average, permission from parents or guardians, and approval from their school principal before they could apply.

Students applying had to have demonstrated leadership in school and/or community activities, express an interest in addressing the issues of their community, and a commitment to 100 percent participation in all activities.

Members were chosen by a selection committee last fall. The applications were scored and applicants were selected to be interviewed. The applicants were interviewed and 23 were selected. The selection committee considered the quality of applicants as well as the need for balanced representation from throughout the county.

Participants come from Zion Chapel, New Brockton, Kinston, Elba and Enterprise high schools.



Zion Chapel High School REBEL NEWS
Rachel Bryan, Sponsor

Share The Dream Winner

Mallorie Bedsole is the winner of the "Share the Dream" essay contest at Zion Chapel. "Share the Dream" is a contest sponsored by Coca-Cola, Fox 34, WJN, Wal-Mart, Fox 20, and WJWZ.

The essay had to address the question: "In his acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King stated, 'Man must evolve for all human conflict a method, which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation.' In our world today, how do you foster an environment of compassion, cooperation and appreciation?" The essay had to have a maximum of 500 words.

Mallorie's essay began with a statement made by Mother Teresa who said, "If you judge people then you have no time to love them." She tied this statement to people in today's society, being misinformed about controversial issues, and how this misinformation causes society to deal with people in certain situations. Her examples were a young man with AIDS and a church congregation, and a young woman who was mental-



Mallorie Bedsole

ly and physically abused at home and her work environment.

Judging in the contest was based on originality and creativity, grammar and vocabulary, and content/appropriateness to theme. The essay had to be typed and double-spaced. One essay from Zion Chapel could be selected to be submitted for the final judging event.

Prizes in the final judging will be scholarship money. First prize is \$10,000; second prize is \$5,000; third prize is \$3,000; and fourth prize is \$2,000.

ZC's Groundhog Job Shadow day is reality



Pictured above are (l-r): first row - Shannon Allen, Levi Brown, Josh Crook, Lance Dickey, Anna Edmondson, Meta Gatlin, LeAnne Hammond, Justin Hobart, and Charlie Hurd; second row - Earl Jacobs, Jonathan Johnson, Megan Johnson, Roy King, Clay Lewis, Kristen McLendon, Hayden Osborn, Katy Paez, Brandon Parker, and Brandon Perkins; third row - John Price, Jason Sanders, Jeremy Sanders, Michael Sneed, Zach Simmons, Austin Smith, Luke Taylor, TJ Winters, Jamie Wise, and Josh Yager.

It was reported in an earlier story of THE REBEL NEWS that eighth graders would have an opportunity to participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day, 29 students signed up for the activity.

Those eighth graders were: Shannon Allen, Levi Brown, Josh Crook, Lance Dickey, Anna Edmondson, Meta Gatlin, LeAnne Hammond, Justin Hobart, Charlie Hurd, Earl Jacobs, Jonathan Johnson, Megan Johnson, Roy King, Clay Lewis, Kristen McLendon, Hayden Osborn, Katy Paez, Brandon Parker, Brandon Perkins, John Price, Jason Sanders, Jeremy Sanders, Michael Sneed, Zach Simmons, Austin Smith, Luke Taylor, TJ Winters, Jamie Wise, and Josh Yager.

The places of business or individuals participating in this eighth grade activity were: Zion Chapel Middle School, Dr. Lance Dyess, Elba General Hospital, Sanders Truck Lines, OCAP Head Start, Haywood's Pharmacy, Hammond's Complete Stop, Ryder Transportation Services, Hurd's Steelworker, Jacobs Paint & Body, L.S. Construction, ESIC Library, NAF Maintenance Division, Coffee County Commission, AMF Mechanical, Coffee County Board of Education-Transportation and Maintenance, Zion Chapel

4-H OFFICERS...Mrs. Griswold's 4th grade 4-H club officers at Zion Chapel are: (left to right) Lindsay Amlong, president; Sierra Senn, vice president; Penny Parker, secretary; Caitlin Grissett, reader; and Cory Barr, song leader. Ryan Hobart is also one of the song leaders.



4-H OFFICERS...Mrs. Suttley's 4th grade 4-H club officers at Zion Chapel are: (left to right) Justin Winters, president; Katie Edwards, vice president; Chelsey Freeman, secretary; Clara Smith, reader. (Back row) Steve Petty and Cory Carter, both song leaders.

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ZC's 8th & 9th Grade honor rolls

Eighth graders who maintained A or A- averages during the first semester are: Lance Dickey, Anna Edmondson, Meta Gatlin, Roy King, Clay Lewis, Joshua Smith, Michael Sneed, Joshua Yager, Nicole Brown, Austin Smith, TJ Winters, Levi Brown, Kristen McLendon and Jamie Wise.

Levi Brown and Kristen McLendon are the two eighth graders who made all A's during both nine week periods.

Ninth graders who maintained A or A- averages during the first semester are: Johnell Brown, LeighAnne Bohrmann, Jason Dunley, Allan Harrison, Dawn

Johnson, Bobby Pennington, Brittany Thompson and Anna Miller. Anna Miller is the only freshman who made all A's during both grading periods.



Ninth graders pictured above are (l-r): front row - Johnell Brown, Jason Dunley, and Allan Harrison; back row - Dawn Johnson, Bobby Pennington, and Anna Miller.

SALUTE!



Eighth graders picture above are (l-r): front row - Lance Dickey, Anna Edmondson, Meta Gatlin, Roy King, Clay Lewis, Joshua Smith, and Michael Sneed; back row - Joshua Yager, Austin Smith, TJ Winters, Levi Brown, Kristen McLendon, and Jamie Wise.

Coffee County Schools Menu Feb. 19 - 23, 2001

BREAKFAST	LUNCH
Monday - Holiday President's Day	Monday - Holiday - President's Day
Tuesday - Pancakes, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Tuesday - Chicken Nuggets, Roast Beef w/ Gravy, Whole Potatoes, Butter Beans, Rolls, Fruit, Milk
Wednesday - Donuts w/ Glaze, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Wednesday - Fish Nuggets, Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Cole Slaw, Corn on Cob, Fruit, Hashpuppies, Cake w/ Peanut Butter Icing, Milk
Thursday - Biscuits, Jelly or Honey, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Thursday - Nachos, Beef and Cheese, Chicken Salad w/ Crackers, Onion Rings, English Peas, Fruit, Cookie, Milk
Friday - Cheese Grits, Toast, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk	Friday - Steak Sandwich, Sausage Pizza, French Fries, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk

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SPORTS

Views from....

THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Ball season is drawing near, and for the girls in the Mularz house that meant it was time last week for them to find their gloves and try on their shoes, which of course didn't even come close to fitting. I enjoy playing catch with the girls and helping them with the fundamentals, but Dad's no longer quick enough to defend himself when it comes to pitching batting practice, and I guess the girls will have to be satisfied to just hit at a tee.

TAKING A FEW FREE SHOTS....

*** The Elba Tigers saw their season come to an end last week with a 55-50 loss to Pike County in the opening round of the area tournament, and while the Tigers were disappointed with the finish, their 12-1 record was something that the players and coaches should take pride in. The Tigers lost all five starters off last season's region tournament squad, and then saw last year's sixth man decide not to come out for his senior season and the top two players off last year's JV squad not come out due to grades and a move to Florida. Coach Bledsoe told his team from day one that he didn't care about last year's team and wasn't concerned about the players that weren't on this year's team. His concern was about the players that were on the team, and they all worked hard to post a winning season with a team that only dressed out eight players and started two sophomores and three juniors. I realize that no one was ready for the season to end, but Coach Bledsoe laid the foundation for a solid program this season and the Tigers should be a team to watch next year.

*** The Elba Lady Tigers won the regular season area championship and moved to within one win of claiming the area tournament title last week with a win over Luverne in the opening round of the tournament. The Lady Tigers haven't really played that well since a big win over New Brockton a few weeks back, but have still managed to rise to the challenge in almost every game to pull out a win. The Lady Tigers have the deadly combination of outside shooting and inside scoring punch, with power inside to dominate the boards, and when the girls are on, it is fun to watch. Now is the time for the girls to realize that they deserve to be where they are and to take that next step and make it to Troy State, and possibly the Final Four. There won't be any easy opponents left, but the Lady Tigers aren't an easy team to beat either, and from a fans standpoint I can't wait to see the rest of the season.

*** The area high school teams all began play in their area tournaments over the weekend, and after the opening round of action only the Zion Chapel Rebels and New Brockton Lady Gamecocks are still alive. The Rebels used the 35-point outburst of Josh McWaters to surprise Kinston and got past the Bulldogs in overtime. McWaters scored 20 points in 20 minutes, while the Lady Gamecocks rode the hot outside shooting of Rena Donaldson to sneak past Samson, and are also assured of a berth in sub-region play. Kinston was expected to battle for the area title before being upset by the Rebels. However, Coach Gary Glass appeared to turn the Bulldogs back around late in the season, and should be a team to reckon with next year. New Brockton was no match for Barbour County and lost in the first round of the tournament, but like the Bulldogs, the Gamecocks got better late in the year, and should be looking forward to playing some teams back next season for the whippings they took this season. Brantley struggled to get over the 500 mark all season long, but was eliminated in the semifinals of the tourney by J.F. Shields and suffered a rare losing season. The Bulldogs were very young; however, and you know they won't be down for long. Over in girls ball, it was a long season for both Kinston and Zion Chapel, but it was a season that is now finally over. The Lady Bulldogs learned a lot during the season and should be much improved next year, while the Lady Rebels failed to win a game, but did get some very young players a lot of on the job training. Brantley's girls were very competitive throughout the year, but played in a tough area, and should have learned just what it will take to win in years to come.

*** It is a little hard to believe, but the Elba baseball and softball teams have already started practicing for the upcoming season. The Tigers will be young and inexperienced, but should be a threat to advance to post-season play, while the Lady Tigers lost eight of its ten starters, and will have to scrap to have a winning season. The teams are working hard; however, and hard work does pay off.

The Calhoun Community College Warhawks claimed their third straight conference win last week with a win over ESJC, and for the third straight game the Warhawks' leading scorer was former Elba standout Tim Ware with 23 points. Ware has averaged almost 25 points a game in the Warhawks' recent winning streak, and it looks like Calhoun may finally be getting over its mid-season slump just in time for the state tournament.

*** In closing, the Elba Athletic Club will meet next week to elect new officers and set committees for the coming year, and I urge all supporters of Elba High school athletics to come to this very important meeting. The recent proration of the schools in the state really had an impact at Elba High, and the school needs financial help if the school's overall sports program is to be able to go on as in previous years. Even if you can't afford to give money, I am sure the coaches would appreciate any help possible working on the fields and in other ways. Hey, every little bit helps, and that is what the Elba Athletic Club is all about. See ya there!

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Fall to Pike County 55-50

Tigers make early exit from tourney

The Elba Tigers made an early exit from the Class 3A, Area 2 basketball tournament Saturday night in Calhoun as they were defeated by the Pike County Bulldogs 55-50, in opening round action.

The loss left the Tigers with a final record of 12-11 for the season, while Pike County upped its record to 9-15 with the win and advanced to the area finals against Calhoun, which defeated Luverne 101-66 in the other opening round game.

The Tigers came out ready to play against Pike County and behind the inside scoring of John Mitchell and a long three-pointer by Marcus Henderson jumped out to a 7-0 lead with 6:05 remaining in the stanza. Pike County finally got on the scoreboard at the 5:48 mark in the quarter, but the Tigers never slowed down, and moved on top 11-4 with 3:41 left on a short jumper by Alan Head.

Pike County scored five points in the final 13-seconds of the first quarter to pull within 11-9. However, the Tigers came out fast in the second quarter and quickly upped their lead to 15-9 on put backs by Alan Head and John Mitchell. Elba began to get in mild foul trouble early in the second stanza, and Pike County responded by picking up its intensity on defense as the Bulldogs took advantage of Tiger turnovers and cold shooting from Elba to go on a 14-0 run to grab a 25-16 lead with :52 remaining in the half.

Elba senior Alan Head battled for two baskets in the final 34-seconds of the half to end the Tigers' scoring drought, but at intermission Elba went in on the short end of a 25-20 score.

Marcus Henderson scored on

a driving lay-up early in the third quarter as the Tigers pulled within 25-22, but Pike County remained in command, and outscored the Tigers 7-2 over the next three minutes to open up a 32-24 lead with 4:13 left in the stanza. Henderson scored on a put back with 3:31 left to snap the Bulldogs' run; however, a basket by John Mitchell with :46 left was the only other points Elba could manage to score in the quarter, and entering the fourth quarter the Tigers found themselves trailing 38-28.

Elba, sparked by the play of Marcus Henderson and John Mitchell, opened the fourth quarter with a 7-2 run to cut the Pike County lead to 40-35, and Elba pulled within 44-42 with 2:52 remaining on a three-pointer by Vincent Hammonds. The Tigers matched the Bulldogs point for point over the next two minutes and were still within two points at 52-50 with 23 left on the clock, but Pike County hit 3 of 4 free-throws in the closing seconds to hold on, and Elba saw its season draw to a close with the 55-50 tournament loss.

John Mitchell scored 23 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter, to lead Elba, while Marcus Henderson added 12 points. Foster and Jackson both scored 14 points to lead Pike County.

PC 9 16 13 17 - 55
EL 11 9 8 22 - 50

P.C. (55): Walker 10, Foster 14, Waller 10, Boyd 3, Johnson 1, Griffin 2, Diggs 1, Jackson 14.

Elba (50): Burks 2, Head 8, Hammonds 3, Henderson 12, Brooks 2, Mitchell 23.

Baseball and softball registration set to begin on Feb. 20 in Elba

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will begin registration for baseball and softball on Tuesday, Feb. 20 and continue the registration through Friday, March 2.

The department will sponsor baseball leagues for boys' ages 4-6 (Tee Ball), 7-8 (Coach Pitch), 9-10 (Dixie Minor), 11-12 (Dixie Youth), 13-14 (Dixie Boys), 15-16 (Dixie Pre-Majors) and 17-18 (Dixie Majors). A players' age in all baseball leagues will be based upon his age on or before July 31, 2001, and all players will be required to play in their respective age divisions.

The department will sponsor softball leagues for girls' ages 4-6 (Tee Ball), 7-8 (Coach Pitch), 9-10 and Under Girls, 11-12 and Under Girls, 13-14 and Under Girls, 14 and Under Girls, 15-16 and Under Girls, 16 and Under Girls, 17 and Under Girls. A players' age

will be based upon their age on or before Jan. 1, 2001, and all players will be required to play in their respective age divisions. The girls softball program will use its transition into "Fast Pitch" softball this season and will use modified rule changes to aid in the switch to fast pitch.

The cost for registration is \$15 per child, with a \$50 maximum fee per family with more than three children playing in the various leagues. The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation will provide t-shirts and caps for all players; however, pants, socks, shoes and gloves will be the responsibility of the child.

The opening day for the 2001 baseball and softball seasons is set for Saturday, April 14. For more information, contact the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation at 897-6833.

Coaches are needed for teams in both youth baseball and softball

The Elba Department of Parks and Recreation is seeking coaches for its various youth baseball and softball leagues.

Baseball teams will include Tee Ball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch (ages 7-8), Dixie Minor (ages 9-10), Dixie Youth (ages 11-12), Dixie Boys (ages 13-14), Dixie Pre-Majors (ages 15-16), and Dixie Majors (ages 17-18). Softball teams will include

Tee Ball (ages 4-6), Coach Pitch (ages 7-8), Girls 10 and Under, Girls 12 and Under, Girls 14 and Under, Girls 16 and Under, and Girls 18 and Under.

Anyone wishing to coach a team in either league should pick up a coaching application at the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information call the Elba Recreation office at 897-6833.

Baseball camp to be held in Elba on March 12-17 at Legion Field

The "third annual 'Elba Baseball Camp' will be held on March 12-17 at the American Legion Baseball fields, in Elba, Alabama.

Every camper will be taught the fundamentals of baseball, including hitting, fielding, throwing and base running. Special attention will be given to pitchers and catchers. The instructors for the camp will include former college baseball players Cory Driggers

and Greg Hanchey, and the cost for the five day camp is only \$50.

The camp will be divided into players 9-10, 11-12 and 13 and over, and the instruction periods will be split in the three age divisions.

Forms are available at all area schools and at the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information call 897-3701.

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Elba's John Mitchell goes up for a basket during a recent Tiger win. Mitchell scored 23 points Saturday night in the Tigers' 55-50 loss to Pike County in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 tournament.

Tigers fall to Goshen 86-29

The Elba Tigers traveled to Goshen last Tuesday night to challenge the third-ranked Goshen Eagles and were simply no match for the high-flying Eagles as Goshen celebrating "Senior Night" by blasting the Tigers 86-29.

The loss dropped Elba's record to 12-10, while Goshen upped its record to 18-2 with the win.

The Tigers matched the Eagles basket-for-basket early on and trailed only 7-4 with 5:15 left in the opening stanza, only to see the Eagles turn up the intensity with a sticky full court press that enabled "Pitch" softball this season and will use modified rule changes to aid in the switch to fast pitch.

Marcus Henderson scored a quick bucket for the Tigers in the second stanza as the Tigers pulled within 20-10, but Elba went the next six minutes without scoring a single point, and Goshen took advantage of Elba's scoring drought to score 17 straight points and went in

at the half with a lopsided 40-12 lead.

The third quarter was more of the same as the Eagles used their quickness to force numerous Elba turnovers, and heading into the final stanza Goshen was in complete command with a big 64-22 advantage.

Goshen's lead grew to as many as 61 points midway in the fourth quarter, and the highly-ranked Eagles easily held on to down the Tigers 86-29.

John Mitchell scored 8 points to lead Elba, while Kendaris Pelton scored 21 points and Janar Tucker added 18 for Goshen.

G 20 20 24 22 - 86
E 8 4 10 7 - 29

Goshen (86): Berry 12, Pelton 2, Flowers 4, Wright 6, Ginyard 4, K. Pelton 21, Rogers 14, Tucker 18, Green 5, Elba (29): Barnes 6, Head 6, Andrews 4, Henderson 5, Mitchell 8.

Charting the... TOURNAMENT TRAIL

Zion Chapel ambushes Kinston 74-65

The Class 1A, Area 4 Boys Basketball Tournament tipped off Saturday night at the G.W. Long High School gym, in Skipperville, with the Zion Chapel Rebels moving into the area finals with an exciting 74-65 overtime win over the Kinston Bulldogs.

The (3-12) Rebels had lost to the (8-12) Bulldogs by over thirty points less than two weeks ago, but Saturday night the Rebels matched their cross-county rivals basket for basket in regulation, and then poured in 13 points in the overtime period to pull out the upset win.

Josh McWaters scored 35 points and Marcus Taylor added 13 to lead Zion Chapel, while Lee Whigham paced Kinston with 21 points. Patrick Nelson added 18 points and Jay Driver scored 11 for the Bulldogs.

Lady Gamecocks slap Samson 56-54

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks advanced to the area finals and earned a berth in sub-region play Friday night by claiming an exciting 56-54 win over the Samson Lady Tigers, in the opening round of the Class 2A, Area 3 basketball tournament, at Clayton.

The win improved the Lady Gamecocks' record to 14-10 and moved New Brockton into an area championship match-up against Barbour County, while Samson closed its season with a final record of 10-15.

Rena Donaldson nailed five three-pointers in the fourth quarter and hit a total of seven threes in the game to lead New Brockton with 29 points, while Kendra Cole added 19 points. Psyche Bess scored 24 points to lead Samson, while Kasey White added 18.

Kinston and Z.C. girls make early exit

The Class 1A, Area 4 Girls Basketball Tournament held its opening round on Friday night at G.W. Long High School, in Skipperville, with the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels and Kinston Lady Bulldogs both being eliminated in opening round action.

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels tangled with the (22-3) G.W. Long Lady Rebels in their opener and were eliminated 62-10. Jill Woodard led the Lady Rebels with 13 points, while Chelsi Simmons, Erica Proffer and Ashley Wright all added 10.

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs drew the (15-6) Arion Lady Purple Cats in the opening round and suffered a 41-25 setback. April Weeks scored 8 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Stephanie Oliver scored 16 points to lead Arion.

Continued...please see

"Tournament Trail" on page 9

SPORTS

Earn berth in area finals and sub-region

Lady Tigers rally past Luverne 47-30

The Elba Lady Tigers pulled ahead in the third quarter and then pulled away late to blast the Luverne Lady Tigers 47-30, Friday night in the opening round of the Class 3A, Area 2 basketball tournament, at the Elba High gym.

The win upped Elba's record to 21-4 and moved the Lady Tigers into the area championship game against Calhoun.

while the loss left Luverne with a final record of 4-17.

Elba jumped out to a quick 3-0 lead on a three-pointer by Laguna Mack, but the Lady Tigers went ice cold from the floor for the remainder of the half, and at intermission found themselves in a 15-15 deadlock with their challengers from Calhoun County.

Lady Tiger senior Roshanda

McKinnon, held to only 2 points in the opening half, poured in 15 points in the third quarter as Elba opened up a 33-25 advantage, and the Lady Tigers ran away over the final eight minutes to claim the 47-30 win.

Roshanda McKinnon scored 23 points to lead Elba, while Chavona Harris led Luverne

with 13 points.
E 8 7 18 14 - 47
L 5 10 10 5 - 30

Elba (47): McKinnon 23, Bludworth 6, Proctor 8, Mack 6, Ware 4.
Luverne (30): West 3, Barber 4, Harris 13, Morrow 3, Vardaro 2, Mash 5.

In youth basketball action

Trey Martin pours in 25 points to spark Wizards to win over Hawks

The Elba Youth Basketball League, sponsored by the Elba Department of Parks and Recreation, continued its season last week with action in all six divisions.

Following are highlights of last week's action:

8 & UNDER GIRLS

*** Miracles vs. Sting - The Miracle and Sting had no problems finding the goal last week as both teams scored in all four quarters. Scoring for the Miracles were Ken Jones, Jaquetta Whitfield, Ashley Cooks and Cortnee Driggers. Scoring for the Sting were Lindsey Carney and Aspen Fdschee.

8 & UNDER BOYS

*** Raptors vs. Rockets - The Raptors and Rockets burned the nets last week as both teams put on an offensive show. Scoring for the Raptors were Chance Goosby, Kendrick Robertson, Devonta Tillis, Donnell Horstead and Marcus Caldwell. Scoring for the Rockets were Jabari Newson, Shabraun Robinson, Branson Bowers and Tyrone Daniel.

*** Lakers vs. Heat - The Lakers and Heat battled hard for all four quarters, with both teams turning in an excellent performance. Scoring for the Lakers were Seth Hanchey, Tyler Anderson, Colton Vaughan, Kevin Allen, Taylor Cotton and Conner Kelley. Scoring for the Heat were Janzen Flowers and D. Bannin.

10 & UNDER BOYS

*** Wizards 36 Hawks 9 - The Wizards used a big second quarter to pull ahead and rolled to a 36-9 win over the Hawks. The Wizards opened a slim 6-4 lead after one quarter, but outscored the Hawks 12-0 in the second quarter to take command and then rolled away with the win. Scoring for the Wizards were Trey Martin 25 and Gavin Flowers 11. Scoring for the Hawks were Justin Hammond 4, Cordell Hooks 2, Trey Belcher 2 and Jordan McBride 2.

*** Magic 19 Pacers 16 - The Magic pulled ahead early and held on late to ease past the Pacers 19-16. The Magic pulled out to a 13-7 halftime advantage, but had to hold on in the final stanza to pull out the win. Scoring for the Magic were Graham Morrow 6, Will Gray 4, Bradley Wilson 3, Jarrion Baker 2, Quentin Caldwell 2 and Aaron Harrison 2. Scoring for the Pacers were Richard Cooks 9, Caleb Bannin 4 and Rob Paul 3.

12 & UNDER GIRLS

*** Fever 28 Mercury 13 - The Fever pulled ahead early and then pulled away late to claim a 28-13 win over the Mercury. The Fever opened a slim 12-9 lead after three quarters, but poured in 16 points in the final quarter to pull away and post the big win. Scoring for the Fever were LaFandra Thippen 18, Brandy Caldwell 6, Meagan Anderson 2 and Ashley Carpenter 2. Scoring for the Mercury were Sydney Brunson 5, Chessie Cross 5, Shelby Cross 2 and Tiffany Bryan 1.

12 & UNDER BOYS

*** Kings 25 Suns 18 - The Kings used a big second quarter to pull ahead and then slowly pulled away to down the Suns 25-18. The Kings trailed 4-2 after one quarter, but pulled into an 11-6 lead by the end of the half and then pulled away to post the win. Scoring for the Kings were Jordan Flowers 15, Antwon Tillis 6, Derrick Manning 2 and Derrick Berry 2. Scoring for the Suns were Chase Boutwell 10, Stephen Driggers 6 and Chase Graham 2.

14 & UNDER BOYS

*** Ft. Rucker 34 Tigers 32 - Ft. Rucker pulled ahead early and held on late to down the Tigers 34-32. The Tigers fell behind 16-9 after one quarter and trailed 28-22 heading into the final stanza, but staged a late rally, only to fall two points short. Scoring for the Tigers were Stefan Burns 19, Alex Allen 6, Adam Spicer 4, William Carpenter 2 and Jessie Schultz 1.

Continued from page 8...

"TOURNAMENT TRAIL"

Brantley ousted by J.F. Shields 70-60

The Brantley Bulldogs threw a scare into regular season area champ J.F. Shields Saturday night after falling 70-60, in the opening round of the Class 1A, Area 2 Basketball Tournament, in Pleasant Home.

Michael Mitchell scored 21 points to lead Brantley, while James Manuel led the Panthers with 20 points.

New Brockton falls to Jaguars 83-42

The New Brockton Gamecocks had a short stay in the Class 2A, Area 3 Basketball Tournament last week as they were eliminated in opening round action by the Barbour County Jaguars 83-42.

Justin Edwards scored 11 points and Randy Danford added 10 to pace the Gamecocks, while LaKeith Pandy scored 34 points to lead Barbour County.

Barbour County advanced with the win and will meet Samson in the area finals.

Applications now being accepted for "10 Star" basketball camps

Applications are now being evaluated for the "10 Star" All-Star Summer Basketball Camps. Camps in the area include Gainesville, Georgia; Babson Park, Florida; and Midway, Kentucky. Scholarships are possible for players named to the All-American teams. For an evaluation form call 704-568-6801.

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Elba Lady Tiger Rachel Bludworth (42) fights for a rebound in a recent win. Bludworth has averaged over 12 rebounds per game this season to lead the Lady Tigers to a 21-4 record.

Lady Tigers dump Goshen 41-24

The Elba Lady Tigers overcame a scoreless opening quarter to rally and post a 41-24 win over the Goshen Lady Eagles, last Tuesday night in Goshen.

The win upped Elba's record to 20-4, while Goshen slipped to 5-13 with the loss.

The Lady Tigers got in foul trouble early in the opening stanza and were content to let the Lady Eagles sit back and freeze the ball after Goshen had taken an early 2-0 lead. Elba began to pick up the pace in the second quarter, and sparked by the inside scoring of Rachel Bludworth, pulled to within 13-12 at the half.

Elba picked up its intensity on defense in the third quarter and outscored the Lady Eagles 14-3

to grab a 26-16 advantage, and then rode the hot outside shooting of Laguna Mack in the final stanza as the Lady Tigers easily pulled away to post the 41-24 win.

Lagina Mack scored 12 points to lead Elba, while Rachel Bludworth and Roshanda McKinnon both added 9 points. Tyeke Jackson led Goshen with 10 points.

E 0 12 14 15 - 41
G 2 11 3 8 - 24

Elba (41): McKinnon 9, Bludworth 9, Proctor 4, Kelley 4, Mack 12, Ware 3.

Goshen (24): Wheeler 6, Williams 2, Jackson 10, Kelley 2, Cope 2, Miniard 2.

Elba Lady Tigers inch up to 6th in Class 3A in latest ASWA prep poll

The Alabama Sports-Writers Association released its latest state high school basketball rankings last week, with the Elba Lady Tigers making the move up to the #6 spot in Class 3A.

Following is the complete list of the "Top 5" teams in each class, along with other area teams ranked among the top ten:

BOYS

CLASS 6A - 1. Auburn (27-3), 2. Parker (25-4), 3. LeFlore (23-4), 4. John Carroll Catholic (20-2), 5. Baldwin County (24-3).

CLASS 5A - 1. Huntsville Lee (25-3), 2. Blount (20-4), 3. Southside Selma (20-4), 4. Anniston (22-2), 5. Ramsay (20-4).

CLASS 4A - 1. Bibb County (24-1), 2. Brooks (27-1), 3. Sumter County (17-3), 4. Clarke County (23-4), 5. Coosa Central (16-6).

CLASS 3A - 1. Washington County (18-1), 2. Lanett (17-4), 3. Phil Campbell (23-3), 4. North Sand Mountain (21-4), 5. Lincoln (15-4).

CLASS 2A - 1. Vincent (23-3), 2. Section (23-5), 3. Goshen (16-2), 4. Mars Hill Bible (25-6), 4.R.C. Hatch (21-6). Also, 4. Barbour County (17-6) and 4. G.W. Long (20-3).

CLASS 1A - 1. Courtland (25-3), 2. Parkway Christian (23-4), 3. Decatur Heritage (24-6), 4. Mellow Valley (23-2), 5. Pleasant Home (22-5).

GIRLS

CLASS 6A - 1. Jeff Davis (25-1), 2. Hoover (25-3), 3. Austin (23-3), 4. Huffman (22-3), 5. Woodlawn (22-5).

CLASS 5A - 1. Boaz (26-2), 2. Buckhorn (22-3), 3. Athens (25-3), 4. B.C. Rini (24-3), 5. B.T. Washington (22-2). Also, 6. Eufaula (21-5).

CLASS 4A - 1. Lawrence County (26-4), 2.

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AUCTION ANNOUNCEMENT

The Goshen Lions Club will hold its 8th Annual EQUIPMENT AUCTION on February 17, 2001 at the Goshen Farmer's Co-op at 10:00 a.m. Consignments being taken thru Feb. 16. For more info call: (334)484-3441 or (334)484-9167

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- MILLIONS IN MANUFACTURER INCENTIVES APPLIED
- LARGEST BANKS IN THE COUNTRY ARE PARTICIPATING
- VIRTUALLY EVERY MAKE AND MODEL AVAILABLE
- ALL VEHICLES CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE REDUCTION PRICE

This National Inventory Reduction Will Be Open To The Public As Well As Area Dealerships. It Is Requested That Vehicles Bought For Resale (By Dealers) Be Resold At Normal Market Pricing To Maintain Market Integrity At The Conclusion Of This Limited Inventory Reduction. During The Reduction, The General Public Will Be Eligible To The Same Pricing Considerations As Area Dealers.

The Best And Largest Banks In The Country Have Been Retained To Provide Loan Financing During This Inventory Reduction. All Credit Applications Will Be Accepted. Local Credit Unions Will Also Be Providing Loan Approvals.

National Buyers And Auctioneers Will Allow All Trade-Ins To Be Taken In. All Trade-Ins-Regardless Of Condition-Running Or Not-Paid For Or Not-Will Be Accepted. Trade-Ins May Be Transferred To Other Market Areas To Insure Maximum Values.

Manufacturer Incentive Monies Including Rebates, Customer Cash Incentives And Dealer Cash Allowances May Be Applied To Already Heavily Discounted Reduction Pricing To Maintain Normal Plant Production Cycles.

This National Inventory Reduction Is Being Held In Conjunction With Unusually Severe Winter Weather Conditions And Huge Market Fluctuations. Normal Pricing May Resume At The Conclusion Of This Event When Normal Conditions May Be Resumed.

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Wedding Anniversary

INSIDE

Kendra Deshaan Jordan Celebrates 1st Birthday

INSIDE

Roshanda McKinnon Nominated For 3A Honors

The Elba Clipper

Volume 104, Number 37 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, February 22, 2001 1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Ad Insert

Elba utility users facing increase in electric and water rates before summer arrives

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba Water and Electric Board faced some unwelcome news at their last monthly meeting. Elba Mayor James Grimes, who also serves as Superintendent of the utility, noted that the recently completed annual audit recommended the board look at increasing utility rates. The cost of electricity alone last year increased \$100,000 over the previous year, and for about the same amount of electricity. Grimes noted that Elba has not had an electric rate increase since 1981.

Grimes noted that surrounding utilities have already increased rates above that presently being charged by Elba.

The recommended increase being considered by the board would see all classes of electric rates increase. Residential minimums would increase from \$4.00 to \$8.00 and the KWH charge would increase from .065¢ to .068¢, but with an accompanying elimination of the fuel adjustment charge, unless there was a huge jump in this added fee from the wholesale supplier. There are 1380

residential customers, and an average increase of \$8.28 per month will net the utility an estimated \$128,000.

Small commercial service would increase from .07¢ per KWH to .71¢ with the same increase in basic flat rate from \$4 to \$8. There are 304 customers in this category and they use an average of 2347 kwhs. Their billing would increase an average of \$11.84 per month.

Large commercial users are on a three rate sliding scale and each of these would also increase, but the demand rate on these customers would not increase. There are 37 customers in this category. They use an average of 16,500 kwhs. Their billing would increase an average of \$49.50 per month.

The three industrial users in Elba would also see an increase under the recommended proposal, but here also the demand charge would not increase.

An increase in security light monthly charges is recommended. The increase would be from \$5.00 a month to \$6.95 a month.

Some classes of water rates are also being considered for rate increases, but residential

customers would escape this increase under the proposal being considered. Financial reports continue to show the utility losing money on water sales. Grimes said studies have shown that only the last large time users, who now get water for as low as 80¢ per thousand gallons, should see the increase. Board members were told that it cost the utility over a dollar per gallon to pump the water out of the ground. Only about 40 customers use over 20,000 gallons per month and only 12 or 15 of those would face these increased water rates.

Board members took the recommendations under advisement and will discuss the matter further at a later meeting. Grimes got the board's approval to look into a method of allowing residential customers to average their monthly bill over a 12 month period, thus avoiding the peak bills during extreme weather months.

Monthly expense bills totaling \$39,400.55 were approved for payment.

Members of the utility board are Chairman Tim Johnson, L. M. Burch, David Bandstra, Mickey Mudlock and Ronnie Hammond.

Elba School Board faces staff and other cuts to meet statewide proration accounting mandates

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City School Board members heard first hand what they had been hearing and reading from the statewide news reports concerning proration of education funds. Superintendent Danny Weeks reviewed the ongoing financial situation and gave predictions on what would be necessary to survive the 6.2% proration mandated by Governor

Don Siegelman.

Weeks said that 100 of the 128 school systems in Alabama will have to borrow money to weather the crisis. Elba, which had already borrowed operating money this year, will see state funds cut by \$32,828 a month for the remainder of the fiscal year. This income drop, coupled with the slowdown in the economy and related sales tax drop,

means any hopes of repaying the \$175,000 already borrowed this year are lost dreams.

He said that the Elba system will have to look carefully at some of the programs. "Instructional programs are top priority in my book - we will have to cut in other areas", the superintendent said to board members. He said that textbook money can be used to fight proration and evaluation is underway to determine the absolute need of new textbooks for the coming year. "Kindergarten and grades one and two are the most critical. With the use of the Internet and our extensive library, the upper grades can absorb much of this shortfall - at least for now," Weeks suggested as one way to ease the pain of

Long-time county school board member Joyce Barksdale dies

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The Coffee County School Board lost a dedicated member Sunday in the death of Mrs. Joyce Barksdale.

Mrs. Barksdale, who represented District 6 on the board, was in the third year of her second six-year term. She was elected to the board in November of 1992. She was also Enterprise's Woman of the Year in 1992.

During the last few months, Mrs. Barksdale had been having physical difficulties, but she never failed to keep informed as to the workings of the county school system. She had also missed very few meetings; in fact, she was in attendance at the last board meeting held on February 1, 2001.

"Mrs. Barksdale will be missed immensely," said Rodger Bowden, Superintendent of Coffee County Schools.

"Her heart was always in the right place and she was a wonderful Christian lady," commented Bowden. "She never made a decision that she didn't feel was best for the kids."

Bowden's sentiments were echoed by Charles Walker, chairman of the Coffee County Board of Education.

"What stood out about Mrs. Barksdale was that she was a Christian lady and everybody loved her," said Walker. "As a board member, she always had the students' welfare and safety at heart, and also wanted the academic status of the schools at its best."

"Joyce was a good board member. She always had the interest of the system at heart - she didn't have her own personal agenda or anything but looked



Joyce Barksdale

after the interest of the students and the employees."

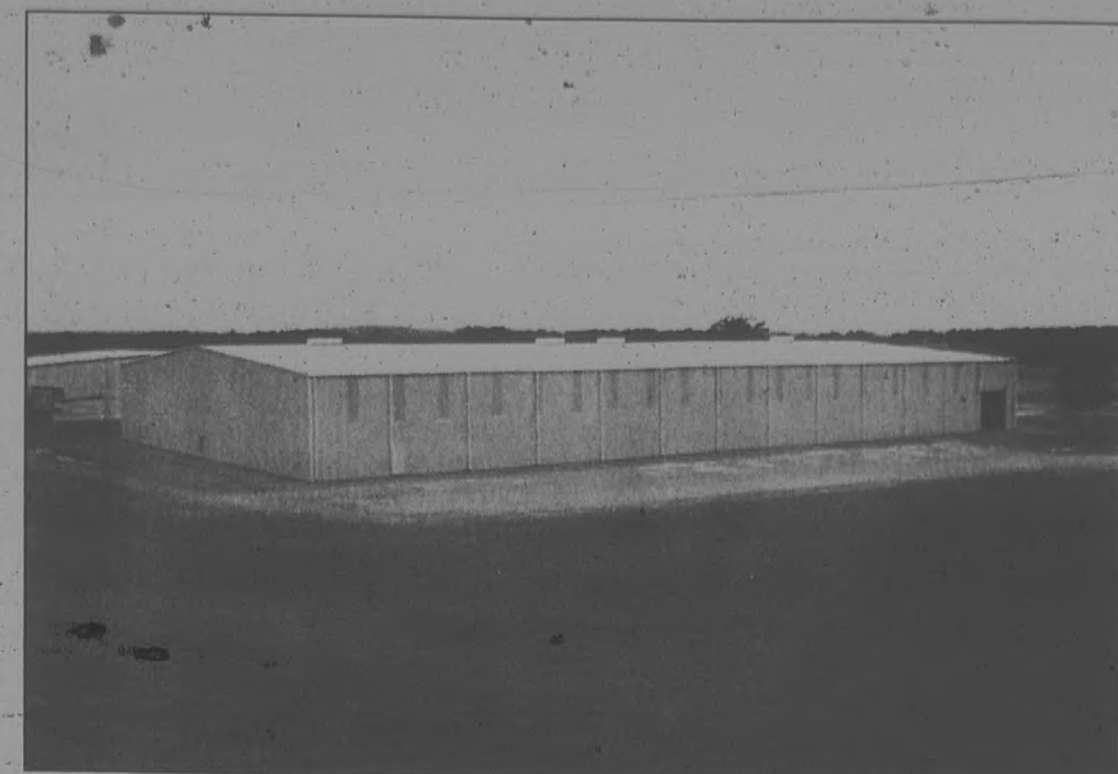
Walker said Mrs. Barksdale, in making her decisions, always looked at the whole picture and how the entire system would be affected.

"She was a very active board member, and she will be missed," Walker added.

Funeral services were held for Mrs. Barksdale Tuesday morning at the First Baptist Church of Enterprise. She was buried in Boaz, AL, where she came from to Enterprise.

In the very near future, it will be up to the remaining board members to appoint an individual to serve the remainder of Barksdale's term on the board. In the event they fail to do so, the state superintendent will make the appointment.

Although it is not stipulated that a person from the district be appointed, Walker feels that will be the case. The board will appoint an individual from District 6 to serve the remaining three years of Mrs. Barksdale's term.



READY FOR OCCUPANTS... The new "speculative building" located in Elba's Industrial Park is very near completion and is ready to be occupied. The building was constructed under the guidance of the Elba Industrial Board. It is an all metal building containing 39,488 square feet of floor space and is well insulated. The building will be marketed through the Elba Economic Development Board with assistance from the Alabama Development Office and the marketing services of Alabama Electric Cooperative (AEC). The industrial park is conveniently located near the airport and the spec building is on approximately 10 acres of that park. There is plenty of room for expansion. A perspective on the size of the building can be gained by looking at the picture on page 11. For more information contact Kaye Whitworth at (334)897-3125 or (334)897-1700 or call toll free 1-800-279-8015.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

Governor Don Siegelman has proclaimed this week, February 19-23, as Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Alabama.

The Coffee County Commission and the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency join the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the State Department of Education in asking for the public's help in spreading information about severe weather and how it impacts the state.

Alabama is one of the hardest hit states in the nation by severe weather. Each year, individuals face the hardship caused by severe weather. Alabama's main severe weather season in 2000 was relatively calm. However, the year ended with an explosion and on a record setting note

with a series of twisters on December 16, 2000.

The tornadoes that struck that day included a category F-4 tornado that killed 11 people in Tuscaloosa County. Other tornado events in recent years include the tragic Jefferson County tornado that struck Jopka and Arde in February 1995. All are grim reminders of the force of severe weather in Alabama.

The following facts point to need for preparedness:

Throughout the week, educational focus will be placed on tornadoes, flooding and flash flooding. Thunderstorms and lightning will also be addressed. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2001, a statewide tornado drill was scheduled. Locally, all warning sirens located throughout the county were to be sounded at

last year. Since 1990, lightning has killed 16 people and injured 197 across the state.

In an average year, lightning will claim more victims than that of tornadoes or hurricanes. There were no flash flood-related deaths or injuries occurring in the 20 flash flood events of 2000. In the past nine years, 34 people have died because of flooding in Alabama.

Severe thunderstorm wind reached damaging force at least 416 times in 2000 and caused millions of dollars in damage. Three deaths were recorded in 2000 and 12 people were injured by thunderstorm winds.

Throughout the week, educational focus will be placed on tornadoes, flooding and flash flooding. Thunderstorms and lightning will also be addressed. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2001, a statewide tornado drill was scheduled. Locally, all warning sirens located throughout the county were to be sounded at

Lightning caused no deaths in 2000 but did cause 11 injuries.

Please See DRILL, Page 3

See School - Page 11

Area Happenings

CHAMBER SPONSORS CLEAN UP DAY The Elba Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a team clean up day to be held on Saturday, Feb. 24, in order to continue the beautification project and the general cleaning of the square. This event will begin at 9 a.m. at the Courthouse. All civic groups, business organizations, churches, school clubs and any other interested volunteers are asked to sponsor a team in order to make this event a big success. Lunch will be provided at the Dairy Queen at 12 Noon. Please call the chamber office at 897-3125 by Friday, Feb. 23, to sign up and give the name of the team's captain.

COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING The Coffee County Commission will hold its bi-monthly meeting Monday, February 26, 2001, at 9 a.m. in the Community Room located in the County Complex in New Brockton, Ala.

FOSTER PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING The Coffee County Department of Human Resources Foster Parent Association will have its monthly meeting Monday, February 26, at 6:30 p.m. in the DHR conference room in Enterprise. For further information contact Anita Grimes at 348-2044.

HOSPICE CAREGIVERS' SUPPORT GROUP Community Care Hospice will sponsor the Community Care Hospice Caregivers Support Group beginning Wednesday, Feb. 28. The group will meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9 a.m. at the Citizens Bank Community Room in Enterprise. The support group is open to all caregivers, not only those of Community Care Hospice.

FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS Free tax preparation and counseling for seniors age 60 and older and taxpayers with middle and low income is available from AARP Tax-Aide. Unemployed Dorsey employees can take advantage of this free tax service. Call the Elba Senior Center to make an appointment for either Monday or Thursday, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., each week until April 15. For further information, call toll free 1-888-AARP NOW or visit the AARP website at www.aarp.org/taxaide for further information.



BWARE OF FUNNY MONEY Area merchants and the general public should be on the lookout for counterfeit \$10 and \$20 bills. Several of these bills have been passed at local businesses in the past few days. Pictured below are front views of each of the confiscated bills. On the \$10 bill there is a possibility other bills will bear the same serial number as the one pictured above. This may also be true on the \$20. In examining the \$10, when held up to the light, the front is very noticeably out of line with the back. The texture of the paper used on both bills is noticeably "slicker" than on the real thing. It is easier to determine if the \$20 is counterfeit because when it is held up to the light, the bar code is not present nor is the silhouette of Andrew Jackson present in the lower right-hand side of the bill. The printing on both bills will smear when dampened. Anyone coming into possession of the counterfeit bills should contact local law enforcement immediately. If possible, take note of the person passing the bill and/or the tag number of the vehicle he or she is driving.